

---

## Graduate Student Information

Name Jeremy S. Cowan

Institution Washington State University

State WA

Faculty Supervisor Dr. Carol Miles

Department Horticulture

Project Title Biodegradable Mulches for Specialty Crops Produced Under Protective Covers

Start Date January 2010

Project Summary: (brief paragraph)

This project involves field trials of commercially-available and experimental biodegradable mulches (BDMs) in three diverse geographical areas to assess quality and serviceability in comparison with conventional plastic products. A primary desired outcome for this project is to increase the general academic knowledge base regarding BDMs, evaluate and catalog product qualities for future generations of BDMs, and to develop comprehensive outreach programs to communicate the results to growers and other industry professionals. Additional outcomes from this project include identifying future research and outreach programs needed to advance the use of BDMs in specialty crop production systems that utilize protective high tunnels. The project also includes development of ASTM standards for assessing biodegradable mulches.